






## Camden, NJ

Environmental Justice	Climate Adaptation and Mitigation	Green Infrastructure	Equitable Development	Environmentally Responsible Growth Patterns	Leverage Federal Partner Resources
					

Camden is a 10-mile square city, with a population of almost 77,000 people, 48% African American and 47% Hispanic/mixed. The median household income is \$26,700 and 38% of residents live below poverty level. Camden has an infamously high crime rate, with over 2,500 violent crimes per 100k crimes, highest in the country in 2012, 560% higher than the national average. There are two Superfund sites and 114 known contaminated sites located within city-limits, and the City approximates there are around 20,000 vacant or abandoned residential lots. Camden is the regional center for waste disposal and recycling facilities, with an incinerator, county sewage treatment plant and 30+ other scrap metal recycling and hazardous waste storage facilities. Camden has a combined sewer system, which has overflows during rain events as low as 1 inch. Camden's only grocery store, recently re-opened, though residents still do not have adequate access to fresh, healthy food.

Region 2 has a longstanding relationship with the City of Camden, and has provided significant amounts of funding across program areas. Region 2 formed the Camden Collaborative Initiative (CCI) with the City, NJ Department Environmental Protection, Camden County Municipal Utilities Authority, and Coopers Ferry Partnership to continue our support for the City and develop a sustainability framework for the community. The CCI has formed 6 task forces of over 35 local, county, state and federal stakeholders which convene regularly to work on air quality, boilers in schools, vegetative barriers to reduce mobile source emissions, recycling, illegal dumping, brownfield redevelopment and open space, environmental education, environmental justice and Camden SMART, the community's green infrastructure program. Region 2 has been working to incorporate the Partnership for Sustainable Communities into the CCI, and has been working with HUD Region 2 which is conducting a Community Needs Assessment. Camden is also part of the Urban Waters Federal Partnership in the Delaware River Basin, working to reduce flooding, improve water quality, reduce sewer backup, prevent CSOs, green local neighborhoods and educate residents.

Through this initiative, Region 2 plans to make a visible difference in Camden, through continued support of the Camden Collaborative Initiative. The Camden Collaborative Initiative was formed to realize the many opportunities to maintain, restore, and enhance the environmental resources in the city. The Collaborative will facilitate and leverage partnerships for proactive, holistic, and innovative solutions to help Camden become a vibrant sustainable city.

## Making a Visible Difference in Communities Region 2

### Future Activities/Needs






- Engaging federal partners and institutions and coordinating funding streams, tools, data.
- Improving air quality: Need for BMPS and compliance assistance for existing businesses and industries to adopt practices to minimize air impacts; Developing an emissions inventory for the Port; funding and assistance for vegetative barriers along roadways.  
Supporting municipal recycling and composting programs, including but not limited to programs in public schools.
- Addressing illegal dumping.  
Supporting local redevelopment and reuse goals by ensuring speedy, innovative, and technically appropriate cleanup of sites and the demolition of environmentally hazardous structures.
- Strategizing for remediation and reuse of contaminated sites, including but not limited to 27 priority sites for economic development identified by the City and 800 abandoned residential lots targeted for demolition by the City.  
Establishing connections between residential communities and their waterfronts. Support for new urban shoreline and preservation of open space in Camden that enhances ecological assets, public access, and economic development.
- Developing a climate adaptation plan, incorporating green infrastructure into hazard mitigation plan, and general resiliency planning efforts.
- Supporting the capacity of the residents, stakeholders, and City to improve environmental quality and address environmental justice. Incorporate outreach and education as integral component to achieve all goals.
- Promoting clean, green energy implementation and policy development, and energy efficiency.
- Addressing environmental impacts of “junkyards” and unpermitted facilities.
- Supporting completion of the regional trail network, bike trails, and municipal access plan.
- Minimizing flooding and volume of CSOs to the rivers, improving drinking, and waste water infrastructure to minimize water loss, environmental impact water quality. Camden has a nationally renowned, community-led green infrastructure program, but still needs a lot of technical support, assistance, and funding to address water quality and drinking water issues.



*CSO flooding in Camden, NJ*

## Making a Visible Difference in Communities Region 2

### St. Regis Mohawk Tribe (Akwesasne, NY)

Environmental Justice	Climate Adaptation and Mitigation	Green Infrastructure	Equitable Development	Environmentally Responsible Growth Patterns	Leverage Federal Partner Resources
					

The St. Regis Mohawk Tribe community of Akwesasne is a Mohawk (*Kanien'kehá:ka*) territory that straddles the intersection of international borders (United States and Canada) and provincial boundaries (Ontario and Quebec) on both banks of the St. Lawrence River. Akwesasne consists of 16,640 acres, has a population around 15,500 people, with the United States portion of the population at 9,500. The racial makeup of the community is 97.41% Native American, 2.07% White, 0.07% from other races, and 0.44% from two or more races. Hispanic or Latino of any race were 0.74% of the population. Median household income is \$34,336, and 19.4% of families and 22.4% of the population are below the poverty level. Akwesasne is adjacent to the General Motors (GM) Massena superfund site, is located close to two other superfund sites (Reynolds Metal and Grass River), and there are other contaminated sites within the community such as open dumps and brownfields. It also has a regional waste disposal and recycling facility, water treatment plant, air monitoring center, and an environment division that includes programs for air, water, waste, and superfund concerns in the community.

EPA has provided financial and technical assistance to the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe (SRMT) to establish its Environment Division to implement an environmental protection program for air and water quality monitoring, soil analysis, developing and enforcing tribal standards, sanitation and waste disposal, environmental rehabilitation/reclamation, and emergency preparedness and response. SRMT is the only Nation within Region 2 to receive a Treatment as a State (TAS) eligibility determination by EPA under the CAA (105) and CWA (303(c); 319; & 401), and has developed its own Air Tribal Implementation Plan (TIP) under the CAA to implement and enforce Tribal Ambient Air Quality Standards. SRMT entered into its third, five-year Performance Partnership Agreement (PPA) with the USEPA, Region 2. The PPA memorializes the long-standing relationship between the Tribe and the USEPA to address environmental priorities of mutual concern. The PPA includes, but is not limited to, directions and strategies in the areas of pollution prevention, compliance and enforcement, air quality, radiation, quality assurance, water quality, solid and hazardous waste, safe drinking water, and pesticides.

Through this initiative, Region 2 hopes to make a visible difference by continuing our support of the Tribe to address public health concerns attributed to superfund sites, water resource and wetlands concerns, waste infrastructure & recycling upgrades, air quality protection, pesticides, pollution prevention, climate change, environmental justice, and economic development.

## Making a Visible Difference in Communities Region 2

### Future Activities/Needs

- Additional Funding: The Tribe is entering into its third decade of capacity development and implementation of environmental programs to protect the public health and environment. Funding is needed to:
  - Upgrade equipment for managing solid waste and recycling because of changing technologies for collection and processing;
  - Upgrade equipment for air quality monitoring, sampling and studies;
  - Comprehensively characterize the watershed at Akwesasne. Future efforts will be made to include a host of other parameters indicative of residential and agricultural impacts (e.g., pathogen indicator bacteria). Funding challenges with CW 104 has led to a reduction in the amount and extent of analysis;
  - Conduct environmental compliance training to educate the regulated community at Akwesasne on AST, UST, UIC, solid waste, and open dumping compliance matters;
  - Further develop a comprehensive pesticides program;
  - Review proposed or actual work performed at the three superfund sites (Grass River, GM Massena, and Reynolds Metal) to evaluate impacts to the SRMT community (subsistence fishing, agriculture, plant usage, recreation, etc.);
  - Assess Brownfield matters in the SRMT community
- Training: to build its capacity to manage environmental issues through staff training and development. Training will address both technical and administrative/financial needs and will be accomplished through workshop, seminar or self-instruction online.
- Continued Technical Assistance: needed to address superfund cleanups; water resources and wetlands protection; air quality and resiliency; waste management and recycling; pesticides; compliance.

### Proctor Creek Watershed (Atlanta, GA)

#### **Background and Key Issues:**

The Region is currently engaged in the Proctor Creek Watershed through our Urban Water Federal Partnership. The Region is collaborating with federal, state and local stakeholders to help the low income, underserved communities in the Proctor Creek Watershed in Atlanta, GA. The watershed sits in the heart of downtown Atlanta, with the headwaters sitting underneath the federal building. The watershed is highly urbanized, and is characterized by significant impervious surface. Flooding is a significant issue as is antiquated infrastructure in the form of a combined sewer system that discharges raw sewage into the watershed during significant rain events. There are significant public health threats associated with these issues from the increased mosquito population in standing water to mold and mildew issues in homes associated with the ongoing flooding issues. Through our collaborative partnership, EPA is working along with our partners to address the environmental and health related issues of these underserved communities.

#### **Scope & Objectives/Region 4 Role:**

Region 4 is proposing to continue ongoing efforts to work with stakeholders in the Proctor Creek Communities. In general, Region 4's efforts will be focused in the following "CPR" categories:

- **Communities** (Building Partnerships/Networks and Community Capacity)
- **Programs** (Work within our Internal Programs as well as with our partners at the State and other federal agencies to evaluate and strengthen implementation of environmental laws and regulation.)
- **Results** (Monitoring for Compliance and to Show Success, as well as, Telling Our Story – Documenting Success)

More specifically our efforts will include:

- **All Programs** –Participation in Urban Waters Federal Partnership/Interagency Working Group
- **Air Pesticides and Toxics Management Division (APTMD)** – Children's Health Outreach; Support approval of diesel retrofit emission reductions into the State Implementation Plan
- **Office of Environmental Justice and Sustainability (OEJS)** - Community Engagement
- **Resource Conservation and Restoration Division (RCRD, formerly RCRA Division)** – The City of Atlanta received an EPA Brownfields Community-Wide Assessment Grant in 2013 and has prioritized assessment dollars for brownfields sites within the Proctor Creek Watershed. Environmental Assessments will be conducted on prioritized sites. The City of Atlanta also manages an EPA Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund that can provide cleanup dollars for key properties.
- **Science and Ecosystem Support Division (SESD)** – Analytical and field technical support will be provided to assist in the community engagement projects in addition to any training as needed.
- **Water Protection Division (WPD)** - Assist the community with the development and implementation of a watershed monitoring and assessment plan; Assist the community and municipalities with the development of water quality/quantity models; Assist the community and municipalities with solutions for water quality improvements and minimization of flooding; Assist the community and municipalities with green infrastructure implementation; Where needed, assist communities and state with the development 9 element watershed plans; Through education and training, create capacity within the community to work closely with the state and local governments on issues related to the CWA such as NPDES permitting (MS4, construction stormwater, POTWs and industrial permits), enforcement, and how to become competitive for EPA grant opportunities; Focus state, local, and community activities on restoration and protection of water bodies in these communities through the implementation of 9 element watershed plans – WQ goal is to remove impairments and to prevent new ones; Coordinate with other EPA, state, and federal agencies/programs that have tools and resources that can be used for water restoration and protection (watershed protection).

#### **Assistance Needed from NPMs and Federal Partners:**

**NPMs:**

- **GENERAL** – Travel Dollars to make a sustained visible difference in communities.
- **OAR** - DERA

- **OCHP** – Region 4 would need a third training funded in FY15 to provide Healthy Homes Training
- **OCSPP**— E3, Integrated Pest Management in Schools Program
- **OECA** – Youth Climate Justice Workshop, Targeted Inspections, SEPS, Tech Assistance/Training For Communities, OEJ Grants, OEJ TASC funding, NEIC will prioritize requests for field/lab support
- **OGC** -- CPRC, CPRS
- **OP/OSC** – Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities, Gov Inst on Community Design, Smart Growth Implementation Assistance, OSC Mission Contract, Equitable Development, Stewards to organize and lead tours/materials. Vision to Action Initiative
- **ORD** – Proctor Creek’s Boone Boulevard Green Street Health Impact Assessment (HIA). Healthy Homes Training.
- **OSWER** -- Technical Assistance Services for Communities Contract (TASC). Partners in Technical Assistance Program (PTAP) to provide opportunities for universities or nonprofits to provide voluntary technical assistance. Additional support has been committed under the Brownfields Targeted Brownfields Assessments (TBAs).
- **OW** -- Urban Waters Federal Partnership. Five Star and Urban Waters Funding opportunities. Guidance on areas where 319 resources can be utilized for implementation of watershed plan in an MS4. Grants training for community. Facilitation technical assistance for community meetings. Travel dollars to make a sustained, visible, difference in communities. Contractor assistance or direct assistance to Region/State (for watershed plan development, stream monitoring, modeling, green infrastructure needs assessment and plan development, stakeholder engagement, education and outreach, establishment of local watershed coordinators, BMP implementation, EJ specific training). One thing that came out of the UW Conference was the need to support full-time “Ambassadors” to facilitate multi-partner collaboration. Assistance to communities to do outreach and marketing.

#### Federal Partners

- **Department of Agriculture (DOA) – US Forest Service (USFS)** - USFS provided training on its “iTree” software. USFS has generated tree canopy data in Proctor Creek basin to assist with ongoing modeling. USFS also has financial expertise (Cost benefit analysis) in green infrastructure and green space value that would be useful (technical assistance). USFS has agreed to assist the City of Atlanta as it plans a local “economic opportunity district” for infrastructure. Once established, this area qualifies as a Brownfields Target Area.
- **DOA – Research, Education, and Economic / National Institute for Food and Agriculture** - Community Food Project grants for low-income communities. Healthy Urban Food Enterprise Development Center Grant. (ATIP) Agriculture Technology Innovation Partnership to research soil, water management and environmental remediation in the area.
- **DOA – Food and Nutrition Service / Office of Strategic Initiatives, Partnerships, and Outreach** - Hunger Free Communities Grant for non-profit organizations to develop or implement a plan to end hunger in their community. Center for Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships program
- **FEMA** –Emergency response planning grants. GA Emergency Management Agency is the pass-through agency for FEMA. Community Assistance for floodplain management, provide for disaster-related needs to communities and individuals. FEMA may assist in emergency (flooding) management planning through its State allocation program. Also, FEMA may designate communities for special exercises to create better emergency management plans. During the calendar year of any federally declared disaster, any local Emergency Management Agency may update its plan to incorporate additional emergency management needs. This is a gap that could help Proctor Creek to address its emergency management issues and concerns related to flooding.
- **Department of Commerce – Economic Development Administration (EDA)** - EPA and EDA serve on Emory’s School of Public Health Stakeholder Advisory Board. EDA, FHWA, and EPA have collaborated on regional economic priorities and related infrastructure prior to August, 2104. EDA’s Public Works and Economic Development funding for Brownfields redevelopment, eco-industrial parks, ecotourism, and other sustainable infrastructure projects. Feasibility studies for eco-district concept, ecotourism, and other sustainable strategic planning and infrastructure projects
- **Department of Education** - Office of Postsecondary Education – TRIO Education Opportunity Centers to provide services to improve the financial and economic literacy of participants.

- **Department of Energy (DOE)** - Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy – Weatherization and Intergovernmental Program, Office of Fossil Energy – Environment, Security, Safety and Health funding to assist Environmental Justice communities in NEPA processes. Office of Legacy Management – Environmental Justice program funding to help in community capacity-building activities. Office of Legacy Management – Capacity Building through Technology to provide excess donation of computers and surplus equipment. Office of legacy Management – Community Leaders Institute
- **Department of Interior (DOI) – National Park Service (NPS)** - Several Brownfields located throughout the watershed. Another feasibility study should be conducted for the entire 28 square miles of the watershed. Proctor Creek was historically a battle field in 1864; community members would like to preserve the history. Groundwork USA Trust, Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program, Land and Water Conservation fund, Federal Lands to Parks program, National Historic Landmarks Program, NPS – Youth Programs, American Battlefield Protection Program.
- **DOI – U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)** - USGS has offered to assist EPA with historic water survey information. USGS typically manages water gages in streams of interest. USGS and USFS have recommended additional stream gages to measure flows in the basin. The USGS formerly had multiple stream gauging stations in the Proctor Creek watershed and currently maintain and operate one. USGS’s Assistance to State Water Resource Research Institutes for research information transfer and student training. National GAP analysis Program to study where native animals and natural plant communities occur and identify gaps to support the conservation of biodiversity.
- **DOI – Bureau of Land Management** - Environmental Quality and Protection Resource Management Funding. Forest and Woodlands Resource Management Funding
- **Department of Justice (DOJ)** - Community Relations Services to resolve conflict between private/public developers and community organizations. Community Capacity Development Office - Operation “Weed and Seed” funding to combat violent crimes, drug use, and gang activity. Bureau of Justice Assistance – Project Safe Neighborhoods, to reduce gun crime and violence.
- **Department of Labor (DOL)** - Employment Training Administration’s “Career Pathways Innovation Fund could be utilized at neighboring Universities and Colleges to support workforce training to prepare community members for careers.
- **Department of Transportation (DOT) - Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)** [*roadways & bridges*] - FHWA has awarded \$250K in research and planning funds to the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC. FHWA Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) improvement funding is being used by Georgia EPD to repower diesel locomotives in the adjacent rail yard to reduce air emissions associated with idling. As Green Street installations occur throughout the community, FHWA’s Context “Sensitive Solutions resource” could be utilized to preserve scenic, aesthetic, historic and environmental resources while maintaining safety and mobility. As the Proctor Creek watershed is restored, FHWA’s National Scenic Byways program would benefit this community for the purpose of planning, design of this area as a scenic byway and its connectivity to the Atlanta Beltline and proximity to downtown Atlanta. FHWA could provide planning and advice, possibly funding for bike paths that accommodate green space needs along the Proctor Creek corridor that address the safety needs of walkers and bikers in the neighborhood and connecting communities. FHWA could purchase additional right of way (ROW) to support extensive development of green infrastructure and associated gray infrastructure.
- **DOT - Federal Transit Administration (FTA)** [*public transit*] - MMPT (Multi-modal Passenger Terminal) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). FTA is involved in the Atlanta Beltline planning. Planning, engineering design and evaluation of transit projects and other technical transportation-related studies, as well as, transit enhancement activities such as historic preservation, landscaping/beautification, pedestrian access and bicycle access.
- **DOT - Office of Secretary / Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU)** - Develop partnership between OSDBU and chamber of commerce to establish a small business transportation resource center to provide business assessment, technical assistance, business training, and DOT funded contracting opportunities to colleges and universities, and 501(c) 3 organizations in the community.
- **General Services Administration (GSA)** - GSA manages the Atlanta Federal Center in the headwaters of Proctor Creek. In 2010 GSA installed a 68000 sq.ft green roof on the Federal Center. The GSA and Federal Center have an

opportunity to coordinate with other downtown property owners and managers to improve the management and reuse of Stormwater.

- **Health and Human Services (HHS) – Centers for Disease Control** - National Asthma Control Program Funding, Healthy Homes / Lead Poisoning Prevention assistance, Health community grants (\$250-500K). This is an area where additional outreach could encourage Fulton County Health Department to increase efforts in the Proctor Creek area. Partner Universities could assist with grant writing.
- **HHS – Administration for Children and Families/Office of Community Services** - Community Services Block Grants to lessen poverty in community. Job Opportunities for Low-Income Individuals (JOLI) Program to create jobs and economic self-sufficiency. Community Economic Development Projects funding to promote projects that address economic self-sufficiency for low-income persons. Social Services and Income Maintenance Benefits Enrollment Coordination Grants. Assets for Independence (AFI) Program funding
- **HHS – ATSDR ( Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry)** - Epidemiologic Health Study to examine the health effects and exposures associated with the social determinates of health.
- **HHS – NIH National Institute of Health/NIEHS – National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences** - Partners for Environmental Public Health (PEPH) Funding to advance health research at the local level. NIEHS Hazardous Waste Workers Health and Safety Training Funding to aid in model worker health and safety training related to creek cleanup events and tire removal projects. Minority Worker Training Program Funding to support employment opportunities (pre-employment job training) as construction projects are implemented. Environmental Justice and Community-Based Participatory Research. Advanced Research Cooperation in Environmental Health Funding to mobilize neighboring Minority-Serving Institutions. Research to Action Funding. NIMHD Centers of Excellence Program Funding. NIMHD Community-Based Participatory Research Initiative Funding
- **HHS – Office of Minority Health (OMH)** - National Umbrella Cooperative Agreement Program Funding. Partnerships Active in Communities to Achieve Health Equity (PAC) Program Funding
- **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)** –Potential opportunity for Community Development Block Grant, Neighborhood Stabilization Program, provide job training, or any mini grants for 501(c) 3 organizations.
- **USACE** – \$3M\* (PENDING FY 16 Budget Process) Ecological/Watershed Restoration Study that supports overall basin analysis for flood mitigation planning to support revitalization activities in the Proctor Creek basin and downstream. USACE is working directly with the City of Atlanta Mayor’s Office on this activity.



## Selma to Montgomery Community

### **Background and Key Issues:**

The Region is collaborating with local, state, and federal partners to serve the communities along the historic Selma to Montgomery Civil Rights Trail. The 54 mile Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail, designated in 1996 by Congress, commemorates the 1965 Voting Rights March along U.S. Highway 80. This trail begins in Selma and runs through forests and farms, and end in the state capital of Montgomery, AL. Communities near the trail share a deep connection to the march and want to preserve its history for future generations while reviving the struggling neighborhoods surrounding the trail. EPA and our federal, state, and local partners continue to collaborate to help meet the needs of these communities. Through a combined effort with the State of Alabama, the City of Montgomery, federal partners (FHWA, NPS, etc) and EPA's Brownfield revolving loan funds the City was able to "daylight" a buried stream and build a greenway around the stream to create an attractive community park. This park also helps address the flooding issues by absorbing stormwater and helping to prevent sewage overflows into Genetta Stream. This park sits at the entrance to this historic trail and will be an important marker for the 50th Anniversary of the Civil Rights March of 1965. However, this restoration effort is just a small part of the work that is needed in these low income, underserved communities.

### **Scope & Objectives/Region 4 Role:**

Region 4 is proposing to continue ongoing efforts to work with all of the stakeholders in Selma and Montgomery, AL including members of communities and our local, state, and federal partners. In general, Region 4's efforts will be focused in the following "CPR" categories:

- **Communities** (Building Partnerships/Networks and Community Capacity)
- **Programs** (Work within our Internal Programs as well as with our partners at the State and other federal agencies to evaluate and strengthen implementation of environmental laws and regulation.)
- **Results** (Monitoring for Compliance and to Show Success, as well as, Telling Our Story – Documenting Success)

More specifically our efforts will include:

- **GENERAL** – Travel resources
- **Air Pesticides and Toxics Management Division (APTMD)** – Children's Environmental Health Outreach; Partner with state to target Lead based Paint investigations and outreach
- **Office of Environmental Justice and Sustainability (OEJS)** - Community Engagement, R4 Colleges/Underserved Communities Partnership Program (CUPPs) will continue to work closely with the communities along the trail to address needs such as aging infrastructure, lack of economic opportunity and financial capacity.
- **Resource Conservation and Restoration Division (RCRD, formerly RCRA Division)** – Community Engagement and Brownfields Assessment and Cleanup. Petroleum Brownfields Corridor Pilot Project - \$3.5 million Genetta Park Restoration Project to restore site and create greenspace.
- **Science and Ecosystem Support Division (SESD)** – Analytical and field technical support will be provided to assist in the community engagement projects in addition to any training as needed.
- **Superfund Division-** Capital City Plume Site Cleanup (downtown Montgomery)
- **Water Protection Division (WPD)** – Catoma Creek/Genetta Stream watershed is a priority for ADEM and the Water Division (319 funds invested in restoration work). Assist the community with the development and implementation of a watershed monitoring and assessment plan; Assist the community and municipalities with the development of water quality/quantity models; Assist the community and municipalities with solutions for water quality improvements and minimization of flooding; Assist the community and municipalities with green infrastructure implementation; Where needed, assist communities and state with the development 9 element watershed plans; Through education and training, create capacity within the community to work closely with the state and local governments on issues related to the CWA such as NPDES permitting (MS4, construction stormwater, POTWs and industrial permits), enforcement, and how to become competitive for EPA grant opportunities; Focus state, local, and community activities on restoration and protection of water bodies in these communities through the

implementation of 9 element watershed plans – WQ goal is to remove impairments and to prevent new ones; Coordinate with other EPA, state, and federal agencies/programs that have tools and resources that can be used for water restoration and protection (watershed protection).

#### **Assistance Needed from Federal Partners & NPMs:**

##### **NPMs:**

- **OAR:** DERA
- **OCHP:** PEHSUs, Student Curriculum, School Guidelines, Grant Funds
- **OCSPP:** E3, Integrated Pest Management in Schools Program
- **OECA:** Targeted Inspections, SEPS, Tech Assistance/Training For Communities, OEJ Grants, OEJ TASC funding, NEIC will prioritize requests for field/lab support
- **OGC:** CPRC, CPRS
- **OP/OSC:** Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities, Gov Inst on Community Design, Smart Growth Implementation Assistance, OSC Mission Contract, Equitable Development
- **OSWER:** Technical Assistance Services for Communities Contract (TASC). Partners in Technical Assistance Program (PTAP) to provide opportunities for universities or nonprofits to provide voluntary technical assistance. Brownfields Targeted Brownfields Assessments (TBAs).
- **OW:** Five Star and Urban Waters Funding opportunities. Grants training for community. Facilitation technical assistance for community meetings. Travel dollars to make a sustained, visible, difference in communities. Contractor assistance or direct assistance to Region/State (for watershed plan development, stream monitoring, modeling, green infrastructure needs assessment and plan development, stakeholder engagement, education and outreach, establishment of local watershed coordinators, BMP implementation, EJ specific training). One thing that came out of the UW Conference was the need to support full-time “Ambassadors” to facilitate multi-partner collaboration. Assistance to communities to do outreach and marketing.

##### **Federal Partners:**

- **Department of Agriculture (DOA) – US Forest Service (USFS)** - “iTree” software utilization and support. USFS has tree canopy data. USFS also has financial expertise (Cost benefit analysis) in green infrastructure and green space value that would be useful (technical assistance).
- **DOA – Research, Education, and Economic / National Institute for Food and Agriculture** - Community Food Project grants for low-income communities. Healthy Urban Food Enterprise Development Center Grant. (ATIP) Agriculture Technology Innovation Partnership to research soil, water management and environmental remediation in the area.
- **DOA – Food and Nutrition Service / Office of Strategic Initiatives, Partnerships, and Outreach** - Hunger Free Communities Grant for non-profit organizations to develop or implement a plan to end hunger in their community. Center for Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships program. Funding opportunities through Jefferson County Extension Office: This agency with its expertise may be able to help leverage outreach, education and support for enhanced safe urban gardening in this impacted community. The local citizens have raised concerns about safely gardening with evidence of some soil contamination in their midst.
- **FEMA** –Emergency response planning grants. Community Assistance for floodplain management, provide for disaster-related needs to communities and individuals. FEMA may assist in emergency (flooding) management planning through its State allocation program. Also, FEMA may designate communities for special exercises to improve emergency management plans.
- **Department of Commerce – Economic Development Administration (EDA)** - EDA’s Public Works and Economic Development funding for Brownfields redevelopment, eco-industrial parks, ecotourism, and other sustainable infrastructure projects. Feasibility studies for eco-district concept, ecotourism, and other sustainable strategic planning and infrastructure projects
- **Department of Education** - Office of Postsecondary Education – TRIO Education Opportunity Centers to provide services to improve the financial and economic literacy of participants.
- **Department of Energy (DOE)** - Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy – Weatherization and Intergovernmental Program, Office of Fossil Energy – Environment, Security, Safety and Health funding to assist

Environmental Justice communities in NEPA processes. Office of Legacy Management – Environmental Justice program funding to help in community capacity-building activities. Office of Legacy Management – Capacity Building through Technology to provide excess donation of computers and surplus equipment. Office of legacy Management – Community Leaders Institute

- **Department of Interior (DOI) – National Park Service (NPS)** - Several Brownfields located throughout the watershed. Groundwork USA Trust, Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program, Land and Water Conservation fund, Federal Lands to Parks program, National Historic Landmarks Program, NPS – Youth Programs, American Battlefield Protection Program. \$1M currently invested in redevelopment of downtown Selma brownfields (historic bank) for reuse as interpretive center. \$100K also invested for additional community engagement support and Temporary FTE assignment to assist with reuse of Petroleum Brownfield sites as waysides for historic markers. Bus purchases will be made by NPS for transit along Historic Trail between Selma and Montgomery. Additional funding needed to complete restoration of historic Mt Zion Church.
- **DOI – U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)** – The City of Birmingham and Jefferson County manage water gages in streams of interest. USGS's Assistance to State Water Resource Research Institutes for research information transfer and student training. National GAP analysis Program to study where native animals and natural plant communities occur and identify gaps to support the conservation of biodiversity.
- **DOI – Bureau of Land Management** - Environmental Quality and Protection Resource Management Funding. Forest and Woodlands Resource Management Funding
- **Department of Justice (DOJ)** - Community Relations Services to resolve conflict between private/public developers and community organizations. Community Capacity Development Office - Operation "Weed and Seed" funding to combat violent crimes, drug use, and gang activity. Bureau of Justice Assistance – Project Safe Neighborhoods, to reduce gun crime and violence. The Building Neighborhood Capacity Program (BNCP) Training and Technical Assistance (TTA. Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation (BCJI) Program which has solicitations once/year.
- **Department of Labor (DOL)** - Employment Training Administration's "Career Pathways Innovation Fund could be utilized at neighboring Universities and Colleges to support workforce training to prepare community members for careers. Job Corps (\$250K) assisted with and deconstruction of buildings on brownfields in Montgomery Historic District.
- **DOL – Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA):** Leverage response efforts and worker education to report employee protected activity (without retaliation) any hazardous or unsafe conditions to regulators (OSHA, EPA, ADEM, JCDH) that may affect workers. Sometimes there is a nexus between OSHA and environmental compliance issues
- **Department of Transportation (DOT) - Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)** *[roadways & bridges]* FHWA's Context "Sensitive Solutions resource" could be utilized to preserve scenic, aesthetic, historic and environmental resources while maintaining safety and mobility. FHWA's National Scenic Byways program would benefit this. FHWA could provide planning and advice, possibly funding for bike paths that accommodate green space needs that address the safety needs of walkers and bikers in the neighborhood and connecting communities. \$1.4M Right-of-Way (ROW) purchase of Brownfields area near Edmund Pettus Bridge and Alabama River in Selma, AL. This ROW purchase led to local bond for Riverfront Development. Additional ROW purchases are needed in other areas of historic Selma where buildings are located near the Alabama River bank. There is substantial involvement of FHWA in the Selma-Montgomery National Historic Trail, as the Trail is also classified as an Historic By-Way, making it eligible for additional funding for economic development
- **DOT - Federal Transit Administration (FTA)** *[public transit]* - Planning, engineering design and evaluation of transit projects and other technical transportation-related studies, as well as, transit enhancement activities such as historic preservation, landscaping/beautification, pedestrian access and bicycle access. FTA Funding has been made available for operation of transit along the Historic Trail between Selma and Montgomery. NPS will partner with this effort by purchasing buses that are operated by the Alabama Rural Transit Authority (utilizes FTA funds).
- **DOT - Office of Secretary / Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU)** - Develop partnership between OSDBU and chamber of commerce to establish a small business transportation resource center to provide business assessment, technical assistance, business training, and DOT funded contracting opportunities to colleges and universities, and 501(c) 3 organizations in the community.

- **Health and Human Services (HHS) – Administration for Children and Families/Office of Community Services -** Community Services Block Grants. Job Opportunities for Low-Income Individuals (JOLI) Program to create jobs and economic self-sufficiency. Community Economic Development Projects funding to promote projects that address economic self-sufficiency for low-income persons. Social Services and Income Maintenance Benefits Enrollment Coordination Grants. Assets for Independence (AFI) Program funding
- **HHS – ATSDR (Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry) -** Provide Health Consultations on environmental data and other technical support.
- **HHS – Centers for Disease Control -** National Asthma Control Program Funding, Healthy Homes / Lead Poisoning Prevention assistance, Health community grants (\$250-500K). Partner Universities could assist with grant writing.
- **HHS National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) –** Health Hazard Evaluation (HHE) and other services to help secure safer places to work.
- **HHS – Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA):** This primary Federal agency may potentially be tapped for improving access to health care services for people who are uninsured, isolated or medically vulnerable.
- **HHS – NIH National Institute of Health/NIEHS – National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences -** Partners for Environmental Public Health (PEPH) Funding to advance health research at the local level. NIEHS Hazardous Waste Workers Health and Safety Training Funding to aid in model worker health and safety training related to creek cleanup events and tire removal projects. Minority Worker Training Program Funding to support employment opportunities (pre-employment job training) as construction projects are implemented. Environmental Justice and Community-Based Participatory Research. Advanced Research Cooperation in Environmental Health Funding to mobilize neighboring Minority-Serving Institutions. Research to Action Funding. NIMHD Centers of Excellence Program Funding. NIMHD Community-Based Participatory Research Initiative Funding
- **HHS – Office of Minority Health (OMH) -** National Umbrella Cooperative Agreement Program Funding. Partnerships Active in Communities to Achieve Health Equity (PAC) Program Funding
- **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) –\$6M (CDBG – ARRA \$)** in weatherization and workforce development housing which included additional community charrette activity, Neighborhood Stabilization Program, Hope VI Funding, provide job training, or any mini grants for 501(c) 3 organizations.
- Additional CDBG (unspecified \$) investment in stream daylighting, greenspace purchase in Montgomery Historic District.
- **USACE –** The Corps has provided support on the Genetta Stream restoration project. Technical Assistance provided to Selma, AL and Montgomery, AL for Alabama River dredging (Selma) and other support in Montgomery Historic District. Strong supporter of the Federal Partnership for Sustainable Communities. Additional assistance needed in dredging river periodically to keep recreational uses available.

## Turkey Creek Watershed (Gulfport, MS)

### Background and Key Issues:

Turkey Creek was established in 1866 by a group of emancipated African-Americans that exercised their newly acquired rights to purchase and settle 320 acres in Harrison County Mississippi. This land was historically described as uninhabitable swamp land. The settlers built a viable, self-sufficient community that largely remained unchanged until the mid-1980s. Now, this land is surrounded by urban development, with the airport to the south, Highway 49 to the west, and the industrial seaway to the north. The Turkey Creek community worked together to develop a watershed management plan. Efforts are underway to revise that plan to specifically address the flooding and water quality issues (pathogen impairment) and to meet the nine elements required by the Clean Water Act. The community has also expressed concerns around large infrastructure projects proposed in the watershed like the Gulfport Port expansion and the proposed “port road” that runs through the Turkey Creek communities. The Region is working with federal, state, and local stakeholders bring resources to this community to address their needs and assist with the revitalization of this underserved community to improve the quality of life for its residents.

### Scope & Objectives/Region 4 Role:

Region 4 is proposing to continue ongoing efforts to work with all of the stakeholders in the Turkey Creek Watershed including members of communities and our local, state, and federal partners. In general, Region 4’s efforts will be focused in the following “CPR” categories:

- **Communities** (Building Partnerships/Networks and Community Capacity)
- **Programs** (Work within our Internal Programs as well as with our partners at the State and other federal agencies to evaluate and strengthen implementation of environmental laws and regulation.)
- **Results** (Monitoring for Compliance and to Show Success, as well as, Telling Our Story – Documenting Success)

More specifically our efforts will include:

- **All Programs** – Environmental Justice Interagency Working Group of Federal, State and Local Partners. Including subworkgroups split out by focus areas (co-chaired by City and EPA/Fed Partner).
- **Air Pesticides and Toxics Management Division (APTMD)** – Children’s Environmental Health Outreach; Partner with state to target Lead based Paint investigations and outreach
- **Office of Environmental Justice and Sustainability (OEJS)** - Community Engagement
- **Resource Conservation and Restoration Division (RCRD, formerly RCRA Division)** – The RCRA Corrective Action program is directing and overseeing the investigation and cleanup of hazardous waste and hazardous constituents at the Cavenham Forest Industries RCRA site in the Turkey Creek area. This work is being conducted by the responsible party under a RCRA Hazardous and Solid Waste Act (HSWA) permit and includes Interim Measures for sediment contamination, capping of soils, installation of a slurry wall, and groundwater pump and treat. The RCRA program also conducts extensive community engagement activities within the area to communicate the findings of investigations and the progress of corrective actions.  
Brownfields Assessment grant (3 year, \$400,000) to City of Gulf Port closed 9/30/ 2014. No assessment work identified by the city for the Turkey Creek area (primarily residential).
- **Science and Ecosystem Support Division (SESD)** – Analytical and field technical support will be provided to assist in the community engagement projects in addition to any training as needed.
- **Superfund Division** – Cleanup of contaminated soil at the Chemfax Superfund site. Target completion is spring of 2015.
- **Water Protection Division (WPD)** – Assist the community with the development and implementation of a watershed monitoring and assessment plan; Assist the community and municipalities with the development of water quality/quantity models; Assist the community and municipalities with solutions for water quality improvements and minimization of flooding; Assist the community and municipalities with green infrastructure implementation; Where needed, assist communities and state with the development 9 element watershed plans; Through education and training, create capacity within the community to work closely with the state and local governments on issues

related to the CWA such as NPDES permitting (MS4, construction stormwater, POTWs and industrial permits), enforcement, and how to become competitive for EPA grant opportunities; Focus state, local, and community activities on restoration and protection of water bodies in these communities through the implementation of 9 element watershed plans – WQ goal is to remove impairments and to prevent new ones; Coordinate with other EPA, state, and federal agencies/programs that have tools and resources that can be used for water restoration and protection (watershed protection).

**Assistance Needed from NPMs and Federal Partners:**

**NPMs:**

- **OAR:** DERA
- **OCHP:** Region 4 would need a third training funded in FY15 to provide Healthy Homes Training
- **OCSPP:** E3, Integrated Pest Management in Schools Program
- **OECA:** Targeted Inspections, SEPS, Tech Assistance/Training For Communities, OEJ Grants, OEJ TASC funding, NEIC will prioritize requests for field/lab support, Climate Resiliency Workshop
- **OGC:** CPRC, CPRS, Dispute/community assistance and facilitated discussion with the community, the developer, MDOT, City of Gulfport, CSX RR, and the Corps regarding the proposed development and resulting impacts to the wetlands.
- **OP/OSC:** Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities, Gov Inst on Community Design, Smart Growth Implementation Assistance, OSC Mission Contract, Climate Resiliency Workshop
- **ORD:** Healthy Homes Training
- **OSWER:** Technical Assistance Services for Communities Contract (TASC). Partners in Technical Assistance Program (PTAP) to provide opportunities for universities or nonprofits to provide voluntary technical assistance. Brownfields Targeted Brownfields Assessments (TBAs).
- **OW:** Urban Waters Federal Partnership. Five Star and Urban Waters Funding opportunities. Guidance on areas where 319 resources can be utilized for implementation of watershed plan in an MS4. Grants training for community. Facilitation technical assistance for community meetings. Travel dollars to make a sustained, visible, difference in communities. Contractor assistance or direct assistance to Region/State (for watershed plan development, stream monitoring, modeling, green infrastructure needs assessment and plan development, stakeholder engagement, education and outreach, establishment of local watershed coordinators, BMP implementation, EJ specific training). One thing that came out of the UW Conference was the need to support full-time “Ambassadors” to facilitate multi-partner collaboration. Assistance to communities to do outreach and marketing.

**Federal Partners:**

- **Department of Agriculture (DOA) – US Forest Service (USFS)** - “iTree” software utilization and support. USFS has tree canopy data. USFS also has financial expertise (Cost benefit analysis) in green infrastructure and green space value that would be useful (technical assistance).
- **DOA – Research, Education, and Economic / National Institute for Food and Agriculture** - Community Food Project grants for low-income communities. Healthy Urban Food Enterprise Development Center Grant. (ATIP) Agriculture Technology Innovation Partnership to research soil, water management and environmental remediation in the area.
- **DOA – Food and Nutrition Service / Office of Strategic Initiatives, Partnerships, and Outreach** - Hunger Free Communities Grant for non-profit organizations to develop or implement a plan to end hunger in their community. Center for Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships program. Funding opportunities through Jefferson County Extension Office: This agency with its expertise may be able to help leverage outreach, education and support for enhanced safe urban gardening in this impacted community. The local citizens have raised concerns about safely gardening with evidence of some soil contamination in their midst.
- **FEMA** –Emergency response planning grants. Community Assistance for floodplain management, provide for disaster-related needs to communities and individuals. FEMA may assist in emergency (flooding) management planning through its State allocation program. Also, FEMA may designate communities for special exercises to create better emergency management plans.

- **Department of Commerce – Economic Development Administration (EDA)** - EDA's Public Works and Economic Development funding for Brownfields redevelopment, eco-industrial parks, ecotourism, and other sustainable infrastructure projects. Feasibility studies for eco-district concept, ecotourism, and other sustainable strategic planning and infrastructure projects
- **Department of Education** - Office of Postsecondary Education – TRIO Education Opportunity Centers to provide services to improve the financial and economic literacy of participants.
- **Department of Energy (DOE)** - Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy – Weatherization and Intergovernmental Program, Office of Fossil Energy – Environment, Security, Safety and Health funding to assist Environmental Justice communities in NEPA processes. Office of Legacy Management – Environmental Justice program funding to help in community capacity-building activities. Office of Legacy Management – Capacity Building through Technology to provide excess donation of computers and surplus equipment. Office of legacy Management – Community Leaders Institute
- **Department of Interior (DOI) – National Park Service (NPS)** - Several Brownfields located throughout the watershed. Groundwork USA Trust, Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program, Land and Water Conservation fund, Federal Lands to Parks program, National Historic Landmarks Program, NPS – Youth Programs, American Battlefield Protection Program.
- **DOI – U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)** – The City of Birmingham and Jefferson County manage water gages in streams of interest. USGS's Assistance to State Water Resource Research Institutes for research information transfer and student training. National GAP analysis Program to study where native animals and natural plant communities occur and identify gaps to support the conservation of biodiversity.
- **DOI – Bureau of Land Management** - Environmental Quality and Protection Resource Management Funding. Forest and Woodlands Resource Management Funding
- **Department of Justice (DOJ)** - Community Relations Services to resolve conflict between private/public developers and community organizations. Community Capacity Development Office - Operation "Weed and Seed" funding to combat violent crimes, drug use, and gang activity. Bureau of Justice Assistance – Project Safe Neighborhoods, to reduce gun crime and violence. The Building Neighborhood Capacity Program (BNCP) Training and Technical Assistance (TTA. Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation (BCJI) Program which has solicitations once/year.
- **Department of Labor (DOL)** - Employment Training Administration's "Career Pathways Innovation Fund could be utilized at neighboring Universities and Colleges to support workforce training to prepare community members for careers.
- **DOL – Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA):** Leverage response efforts and worker education to report employee protected activity (without retaliation) any hazardous or unsafe conditions to regulators (OSHA, EPA, ADEM, JCDH) that may affect workers. Sometimes there is a nexus between OSHA and environmental compliance issues
- **Department of Transportation (DOT) - Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)** *[roadways & bridges]* FHWA's Context "Sensitive Solutions resource" could be utilized to preserve scenic, aesthetic, historic and environmental resources while maintaining safety and mobility. FHWA's National Scenic Byways program would benefit this. FHWA could provide planning and advice, possibly funding for bike paths that accommodate green space needs that address the safety needs of walkers and bikers in the neighborhood and connecting communities. FHWA could purchase additional right of way (ROW) to support extensive development of green infrastructure and associated gray infrastructure.
- **DOT - Federal Transit Administration (FTA)** *[public transit]* - Planning, engineering design and evaluation of transit projects and other technical transportation-related studies, as well as, transit enhancement activities such as historic preservation, landscaping/beautification, pedestrian access and bicycle access.
- **DOT - Office of Secretary / Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU)** - Develop partnership between OSDBU and chamber of commerce to establish a small business transportation resource center to provide business assessment, technical assistance, business training, and DOT funded contracting opportunities to colleges and universities, and 501(c) 3 organizations in the community.
- **Health and Human Services (HHS) – Administration for Children and Families/Office of Community Services** - Community Services Block Grants. Job Opportunities for Low-Income Individuals (JOLI) Program to create jobs and

economic self-sufficiency. Community Economic Development Projects funding to promote projects that address economic self-sufficiency for low-income persons. Social Services and Income Maintenance Benefits Enrollment Coordination Grants. Assets for Independence (AFI) Program funding

- **HHS – ATSDR ( Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry)** - Provide Health Consultations on environmental data and other technical support.
- **HHS – Centers for Disease Control** - National Asthma Control Program Funding, Healthy Homes / Lead Poisoning Prevention assistance, Health community grants (\$250-500K). Partner Universities could assist with grant writing.
- **HHS National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)** – Health Hazard Evaluation (HHE) and other services to help secure safer places to work.
- **HHS – Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA):** This primary Federal agency may potentially be tapped for improving access to health care services for people who are uninsured, isolated or medically vulnerable.
- **HHS – NIH National Institute of Health/NIEHS – National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences** - Partners for Environmental Public Health (PEPH) Funding to advance health research at the local level. NIEHS Hazardous Waste Workers Health and Safety Training Funding to aid in model worker health and safety training related to creek cleanup events and tire removal projects. Minority Worker Training Program Funding to support employment opportunities (pre-employment job training) as construction projects are implemented. Environmental Justice and Community-Based Participatory Research. Advanced Research Cooperation in Environmental Health Funding to mobilize neighboring Minority-Serving Institutions. Research to Action Funding. NIMHD Centers of Excellence Program Funding. NIMHD Community-Based Participatory Research Initiative Funding
- **HHS – Office of Minority Health (OMH)** - National Umbrella Cooperative Agreement Program Funding. Partnerships Active in Communities to Achieve Health Equity (PAC) Program Funding
- **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)** –Continued support for the Community Development Block Grant (Gulfport Port Authority), Neighborhood Stabilization Program, Hope VI Funding, provide job training, or any mini grants for 501(c) 3 organizations.
- **USACE** – The Corps is working with the Community on several projects involving permitting and the design of a levee. Potential for Assistance to State funding.



## Chicago, IL

	Environmental Justice	Climate Adaptation and Mitigation	Green Infrastructure	Equitable Development	Environmentally Responsible Growth Patterns	Leverage Federal Partner Resources	KPI Pilot	EJ Showcase	Strong Cities, Strong Communities	Climate Showcase Communities	Urban Waters	HUD DOT EPA Partnership for Sustainable Communities	Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership
Chicago, IL	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	

Region 5 has actively worked with Environmental Justice organizations to address legacy contamination in two Southwest Chicago neighborhoods. Region 5 worked with community groups to reduce air pollution impacts from two coal-fired power plants, now closed, and an operating lead smelter located near schools.

In addition, community groups in Southeast Chicago are seeking assistance with reducing potential exposures from fugitive dust emissions from petroleum coke processing. There are opportunities in the Lake Calumet Region and surrounding wetlands to expand use of green infrastructure to mitigate the area's stormwater issues.

### Current and Future Region 5 Activities:

- **Reduce Air Quality Impacts in Overburdened Neighborhoods** – Use targeted air enforcement, monitoring, modelling, permitting, and voluntary programs to identify and overcome significant air quality challenges in Southeast Chicago.
- **Loewenthal Metals Corp. and Peoples Gas Manufactured Gas Plant Site at 22<sup>nd</sup> Street Station & Crawford Station** – Work with the City of Chicago and community groups on clean up and reuse options of each site.
- **Pilsen Area Soil Site Assessment** - Work with City of Chicago, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, and community groups to provide education and interim control measures for existing soil contamination. Complete year-long assessment activity and render final decision on a broad strategy including near-term removal actions for Pilsen later this year.
- **Celotex Superfund Reuse** – Work with community groups and the Chicago Park District to develop a new park at a former Superfund site.
- **Pullman National Park** - Work with the City of Chicago and the National Park Service (NPS) to facilitate property transfer of the former Pullman Works to NPS. Provide a Bona Fide Prospective Purchaser status and comfort letter to the NPS to acquire portions of the Pullman Works property for use as a historical site. Provided a Targeted Brownfield Assessment for the site.

## Duluth, MN

	Environmental Justice	Climate Adaptation and Mitigation	Green Infrastructure	Equitable Development	Environmentally Responsible Growth Patterns	Leverage Federal Partner Resources	KPI Pilot	EJ Showcase	Strong Cities, Strong Communities	Climate Showcase Communities	Urban Waters	HUD DOT EPA Partnership	Sustainable Communities Investing in Manufacturing	Communities Partnership
Duluth, MN	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓				

Region 5 is working with the City of Duluth to integrate green infrastructure in the St. Louis River Corridor to meet its Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) management needs in a way that improves the community. Region 5 will implement projects on community development, climate change, and brownfields revitalization with federal, state and local partners.

### Current and Future Region 5 Activities:

- **Targeted Brownfields Assessment and Cleanup at Former Atlas Cement Site** – Fund assessment and analytical support to the City of Duluth and Duluth Economic Development Authority; the results of which will be used to develop a cleanup plan for the 51 acre site and conduct reuse planning along the St. Louis River corridor.
- **Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Shoreline Cities Grant** – Work with the City of Duluth, and the US Army Corps of Engineers to construct green infrastructure at three sites within the City: Chambers Grove Park, the Lake Superior Zoo, and the Atlas Industrial Brownfield Park.
- **Urban Waters Small Grant** – Provide funds to the City of Duluth to develop a St. Louis River Corridor Strategic Action Framework to direct funding to priorities within the Corridor in a way that improves water quality and supports the revitalization and economic development goals of the Corridor communities.
- **St. Louis River Great Lakes Legacy Act Area of Concern** – Sediment cleanup underway to remove Beneficial Use Impairments and ultimately delist the Area of Concern.
- **Green Infrastructure Performance** – Conduct field research to collect data and assess long-term performance of green infrastructure as a CSO solution. New fellowship positions to facilitate information flow across different EPA programs.
- **Build Tribal Capacity** – EPA GLRI funds to assist the 1854 Treaty Authority (Grand Portage and Bois Forte Bands of Chippewa) in building capacity to contribute to activities that support the Lake Superior Lakewide Management Plan and the Lake Superior Binational Program.
- **St. Louis River Superfund Reuse** – Redevelopment planning underway for a 120-acre area of the US Steel/ St. Louis River/Interlake/Duluth Tar site identified for potential reuse as a light industrial park by the Duluth Port Authority. Develop an accelerated supplemental investigation and cleanup design for this area; to be done by MPCA.

**Community Name**

Alexandria and Pineville, LA

**Community Background**

- With the help of local citizens, both the EPA and LDEQ have identified an area within the Alexandria and Pineville, LA communities that encompass two active creosoting sites specified under the RCRA program as large quantity generators: Ruston Foundry and Oilfield Scrap, federal and state Superfund sites, respectively, as well as a metal recycling facility known as Alexandria Iron.
- All sites are located in a 1.5 mile radius and are within residential areas that support eight (8) local schools. The Superfund Fact Sheet for the Ruston Foundry (located at 1010 Bogan Street and deleted from the NPL) reports more than 9000 residents within the area, and 64,000 within four miles.
- The first Community Listening session was held December 2, 2014 organized by a community member, Ms. Agnes Francisco, with General Russel Honore' of the Green Army in attendance as well as Dr. Wilma Subra with Louisiana Environmental Action Network (LEAN).

**Problem/Issue**

- Both Superfund sites list metals as contaminants of concern (COCs), including lead, antimony, chromium, copper, and arsenic. Chatlin Lake Canal borders the Oilfield Scrap site and is undergoing a city drainage improvement project and citizens have raised concerns about the re use of soil in the neighborhood.
- COCs for both creosote sites are polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) that may be released to the air, surface water drainage and groundwater. Groundwater contamination is currently controlled by pump and treat operations under LDEQ post closure permits issued to the former operator for both sites.
- The status of the environment is poor as local citizens have reported incidence of stomach and colon cancer, heart disease, asthma, bronchitis, kidney disease, multiple myeloma, and lupus.

**Planned Community Success**

- To optimize the social and economic benefits as well as address risk for this community, the EPA and LDEQ are working on a Cooperative Sustainability Initiative, which is a nonbinding voluntary agreement between the EPA, LDEQ, the cities of Alexandria and Pineville and the corporate entities in the neighborhood. Planned action items under the voluntary agreement will be performed in 2015; including, performing Sustainability Assessments using resources from the Sustainable Materials Management (SMM) program for creosoting operations at both creosoting facilities.

## **Needed Resources**

The neighborhood needs sampling support (potentially x-ray fluorescence field-screening) to measure metals and PAHs in sediments in Chatlin Lake Canal and near neighborhood schools and playgrounds.

Parties to the Cooperative Sustainability Initiative would like to partner with the Department of Human Health Services (DHHS) to request assistance with community services such as blood lead level screening, assistance with local seminars or educational programs for the libraries, schools and workplaces to discuss health issues and promoting healthy lifestyles. DHHS may be able to provide assistance under their program called the National Partnership for Action (NPA).

[[http://minorityhealth.hhs.gov/npa/files/Plans/Toolkit/NPA\\_Toolkit.pdf](http://minorityhealth.hhs.gov/npa/files/Plans/Toolkit/NPA_Toolkit.pdf)] .

**Community Name**

Grants Mineral Belt, New Mexico

- Bluewater Valley Downstream Alliance (BVDA)
- Multi-Cultural Alliance for a Safe Environment (MASE)

**Community Background**

The BVDA and MASE are active community environmental groups that strive to hold EPA and other federal and state environmental agencies accountable for protecting their communities from environmental impacts caused by legacy uranium mining and milling within the Grants Mining District.

- The communities they represent include the residents in the village of Bluewater, the Mormon Farms area near the Homestake Mining Company (HMC) uranium mill NPL site, and the Pueblo of Laguna and Acoma villages.
- Contamination from the uranium industry has impacted the ground water on a large scale within the Grants Mining District, as well as soils, surface water, sediments and potentially air.

**Problem/Issue**

- The ground water at and in the vicinity of these communities has been contaminated by the uranium mining and milling industries since at least the 1970s, with the discovery of contamination at the HMC site.
- EPA negotiated a settlement with HMC in the 1980s for an alternate water supply for residences with impacted private wells while other regulatory authorities (the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission [NRC] through its Source Materials License Agreement, and New Mexico through its permitting programs) worked with HMC to have the ground water remediated and the mill reclaimed and closed.
- Ground water remediation at the HMC site (which was initially estimated to take 10 years to complete) has been ongoing for nearly 40 years. Furthermore, the cleanup level established by the NRC (and agreed to by New Mexico and EPA) at the site for uranium reflects a background level that is five times higher than the federal protective level (MCL) for uranium.
- This background level is not a natural level, but represents impacts from other sources located within the drainage basin but upgradient from the HMC site. There are nearly 100 legacy mines located upgradient of the HMC site.
- Unfortunately, once the HMC site ground water is cleaned up to the established background levels and HMC is released from its responsibilities for mitigating ground water impacts from its mill site, the ground water will still not be restored to its beneficial uses due to the upgradient impacts. This has angered the community.
- Public health surveillance in the Grants Mining District by the NM Health Department for uranium exposure showed that almost 30 percent of the test population (99 participants) exhibited uranium exposure based on urine analysis.

**Planned Community Success**

- EPA is currently conducting a basin wide ground water investigation to determine the extent of ground water impacts from the legacy uranium mines and other mills located upgradient from the HMC site. This involves investigating ground water in the shallow alluvium as well as

multiple bedrock formations, all of which are used for drinking water and other domestic and livestock watering purposes. The investigation covers an area of over a 320 square miles. The community is encouraged by EPA's ongoing work, but is frustrated that it took this long to start. They have spent nearly a lifetime dealing with these issues.

- EPA plans to complete the ground water investigation over the next few years and explore options for conducting cleanup actions under CERCLA. This will include evaluating potential enforcement options to mitigate these ground water impacts as well as the contamination at individual legacy mines within the basin.
- There are nearly 100 legacy uranium mines in the Grants Mining District. The Jackpile Pague Mine, once the world's largest open pit uranium mine, was placed on the NPL in 2011.
- The ultimate goal is to remediate ground water contamination in the Grants Mining District and the legacy mines. EPA and other federal, state and tribal partners developed a 5-Year Plan in 2010 to assess environmental impacts in the Grants Mining District. A second 5-Year Plan is being prepared for 2015.

#### **Preliminary NPM/Federal Partner Resource Needs**

- The basin-wide ground water investigation will require at least several million dollars to complete over the next few years.

## EPA Region 7

### *Making a Visible Difference in Communities*

#### Priority Community

Kansas City, Kansas and Kansas City, Missouri

#### Scope

Situated at the confluence of the Kansas and Missouri Rivers and part of a greater metropolitan area of over 2 million people, the communities of Kansas City, KS and Kansas City, MO present diverse opportunities for environmental collaboration. In 2010 Kansas City, Kansas/Kansas City, Missouri was named as an Environmental Justice Showcase area. The Showcase focused on ten area neighborhoods and a multitude of environmental and human health topics. Relationships have been sustained and on going partnerships continue toward addressing EJ concerns. The many resources and projects EPA currently has invested in both communities will provide a strong foundation as we work to enhance our partnership over the next two years. The Kansas City area is also home to over a dozen other federal agencies which can leverage our ability to make a difference in these communities.

#### Community Information

##### *Kansas City, KS (KCK)*

With a population of approximately 148,000, KCK is a small, diverse, and family oriented city. The KCK community is an active environmental partner and leader. They apply for environmental grants, invest in Brownfields, develop community gardens, engage EPA in community meetings, and voluntarily reduce air emissions and monitor lakes and creeks.

KCK's centralized location in America's heartland has made it home to transportation distribution centers, production facilities, and warehouses. There are several environmental justice areas in the city and KCK recently had an EJ Small Grant which provided the community planning dollars focused on a neighborhood Superfund Site (KC Structural Steel). This work led to redevelopment of the site which resulted in a grocery store and other businesses in a former food desert. One of the oldest Latino neighborhoods in KCK is adjacent to one of the largest rail yards in the United States and the city is a potential ozone nonattainment area due to the many industry sources and rail yards in the area. KCK is also home to a Superfund site, several RCRA Corrective Action sites, and is under a Consent Decree to determine needed sewer system improvements.

##### *Kansas City, MO (KCMO)*

With a population of over 470,000, more than 240 unique neighborhoods, and spanning parts of three counties, KCMO is the largest municipality in the state of Missouri and shares an airshed with their neighbors in Kansas City, Kansas. KCMO is the home to many company headquarters, philanthropic foundations, international law firms, and numerous agricultural companies. Development of research, academic, and economic institutions have led to the city being a major part of the Kansas City Animal Health Corridor. KCMO is one of the ten regional office

cities for the U.S. Government and the federal government is the largest employer in the city. The city is also the home of the Region 7 Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit (PEHSU) and several other hospitals with whom EPA has a strong working relationship.

By implementing initiatives such as the Green Impact Zone and the Green Neighborhood Recognition Program, KCMO has shown their commitment toward addressing environmental and sustainability concerns. They have had notable success with Brownfields grants and are active in water quality monitoring activities. KCMO also has multiple RCRA Corrective Action sites and Superfund sites within city limits. KCMO is implementing green infrastructure projects, CSO elimination, and other sewer/wastewater treatment system improvements under a Consent Decree. The Middle Blue River Urban Waters Federal partnership leverages resources from multiple local/state/federal partners focused on conservation and restoration and community revitalization and engagement in KCMO.

#### Preliminary NPM/Federal Partner Resource Needs

- Funding to support planned work
- Staff resource support in the form of Skills Marketplace and/or Detail positions
- Information and expertise on national initiatives
- Additional ORD support on implementation and measurement of green infrastructure projects
- Funding, technical assistance, and participation from multiple agencies to support a multiyear Urban Waters Ambassador and identified urban waters restoration, conservation planning, and community engagement and revitalization projects



## EPA Region 7

### *Making a Visible Difference in Communities*

#### Priority Community

St. Louis, Missouri

#### Scope

St. Louis is located on the western bank of the Mississippi River, was founded in 1764 and during the late 19<sup>th</sup> century existed as one of the largest cities in the United States. The city's population peaked in 1950 but has since experienced a significant population loss leaving behind many economic, environmental, and social challenges. The EPA, and many other federal agencies, have targeted St. Louis for coordinated and intensive assistance through the Strong Cities, Strong Communities Initiative. In addition, many other high profile EPA projects are underway in St. Louis including Westlake Landfill, Carter Carburetor, and projects addressing Environmental Justice. EPA Region 7 has several ongoing environmental enforcement cases involving violations of the Clean Air Act with facilities that are either within St. Louis, or contribute significantly to air quality challenges in the area.

#### Community Information

As an aging, former-industrial city, St. Louis experiences many environmental challenges. Compounding these historical issues is the population loss of the past 60 years experienced by the city which resulted in many vacant and blighted properties, environmental justice, Brownfield, and air and water quality issues. In response to these and other issues, Mayor Slay has introduced a comprehensive, forward looking sustainability plan and action agenda designed to guide the city into the future. The focus of the Sustainability Plan is three-fold:

1. Make the City cleaner, safer, healthier, with less waste of energy and natural resources
2. Attract knowledgeable workers and others who want more sustainable spaces and neighborhoods.
3. Make life better and easier for all citizens

The plan utilizes these three purposes to further hone in on action strategies; many of which are environmentally focused.

In addition, the city has demonstrated successful utilization of EPA resources including past and current Brownfields grants, cleanup and revolving loan fund grants, Office of Sustainable Communities Building Blocks technical assistance, past and current Superfund projects, Environmental Justice small grants, EJ Collaborative Problem-Solving Grants, and other work relating to water and air quality. The Metropolitan Sewer District works collaboratively with the city of St. Louis on implementation of a Consent Decree to address combined sewer overflows and upgrades to treatment plants and the collection system throughout the metro area. While the City has made great progress on a myriad of environmental issues, there is still a lot of work ahead. The Metro area has chronic struggles in meeting health-based Ozone and PM<sub>2.5</sub> standards and has one of the highest asthma rates in the country.

Under the Strong Cities, Strong Communities (SC2) framework, EPA Region 7 is undertaking several activities:

- Facilitation of the reuse of the former PruittIgoe housing development site—utilizing TBA contractor resources and staff technical assistance, the City will be receiving a “No Further Action” Letter from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. This letter will be for non residential use and will allow the site to utilize bank leverage and other sources of debt equity per standard underwriting criteria. Furthermore, EPA Region 7 has helped facilitate conversations on additional work needed at the site to facilitate reuse. This includes strategies to further mitigate contamination at the site, geotechnical and grading issues, and end use redevelopment.
- Both EPA Region 7 and EPA HQ Office of Sustainable Communities have been working with the city’s Planning and Urban Design Director and with the Old North St. Louis Development Corporation (non-profit Community Development Corporation) to identify a scope of work around a sustainable historic district vision and design. This will involve the OSC office contracting out services based on the scope of work put together by EPA and the city to conduct community visioning and design work as well as develop strategies for implementation of the resulting vision.
- As the city and the SC2 team move forward with creating a comprehensive, city-wide Vacancy and Blight Plan; EPA will play a central role as a convener, technical expert, source of outside technical assistance, and potential funder of several activities taking place under this plan. This includes, but is not limited to, potential code-audits of existing land banks; environmental assessment and cleanup of vacant and blighted properties; reuse technical assistance; and demolition best practices and strategies.
- A longer-term project that SC2 will be providing early-on assistance for is the Chouteau Lake and Greenway project. With green infrastructure being one of the main drivers of this project, EPA will play a role in ensuring best practices and environmental perspectives through all phases of the design.

#### Preliminary NPM/Federal Partner Resource Needs

- Funding to support planned work
- Staff resource support in the form of Skills Marketplace and/or Detail positions
- Information and expertise on national initiatives
- Potential ORD support on green infrastructure

## EPA Region 8 Community Focus

---

*Community name:* **Poplar, Montana – Fort Peck Indian Reservation**

*Summary:* EPA is supporting the implementation of the tribally proposed Fort Peck Assiniboiné & Sioux Tribal Sustainable Village (the Village) in Poplar, MT. Going beyond construction of much needed residential housing, the project is being designed as a highly efficient mixed-use neighborhood that will increase tribal business opportunities and serve as a community hub. As the Village borders a major river, there is an opportunity for a youth water boot camp and other youth centered trainings and events. EPA will explore the application of other program resources and technical assistance focused on protecting human health and the environment in the community.

*Location:* Located on the Fort Peck Reservation, the town of Poplar is approximately 300 miles northeast of Billings, MT; 190 miles south of Regina, Canada; 75 miles west of Williston, ND. The Poplar River flows adjacent to a portion of the proposed Village before terminating into the Missouri River immediately south of town.

*Characteristics:* Poplar's population of 859 is 85% minority and 64% low-income. Members of the Fort Peck Assiniboiné & Sioux Tribes experience environmental challenges including emissions from power plants, close proximity to mining activities, cement plants, abandoned mines, leaking underground storage tanks, hazardous and non-hazardous waste management, water quality compromises and indoor air quality challenges. The community is also seeing an increase in oil and gas activity due to its proximity to Bakken formation and the area has air quality nonattainment potential.

*Focus & Execution:* EPA will make a meaningful difference by assisting the Tribes with the cleanup and redevelopment of the former Poplar airport and an adjacent landfill which will underlay a portion of the Village. EPA is working with the Fort Peck Tribal Response Program and its contractors to develop a cleanup plan that will use a \$200,000 EPA Brownfields Cleanup grant to address pesticides contaminated soils. EPA Targeted Brownfields Assessments (TBA) were used to evaluate the airport (2010) the landfill (2014) and are informing the layout of the Village. The 2014 TBA also provided mitigation recommendations and cost estimates based on construction plans. The final report from a 2014 Smart Growth 101 Workshop has significant recommendations and next steps that can support economic growth and increase tribal capacity and participation. Focus on these recommendations and implementation of the DOT TIGER Grant will help connect with Federal partners.

*Leveraging & Partnership:* The Tribe has already leveraged substantial commitment from governmental and nongovernmental partners. In 2014 Smart Growth America (funded under an EPA Sustainable Communities grant) provided the Tribes with a 2 day sustainable development workshop. A \$692,829 DOT TIGER Grant will fund pre-construction transportation improvements and USDA Rural Utilities Service will fund utility installation at the Village. The non-profit Make It Right Foundation has committed to construct 20 energy

## EPA Region 8 Community Focus

---

efficient homes and \$647,500 in low-income housing tax credits (LIHTC) have been authorized by the State of Montana for residential rent-to-own construction.

*Key Programs & Resources:* While substantial leveraging and partnership have been achieved to date, there is a significant role for multiple EPA programs to contribute to making the Village a reality and assisting the Tribes as they seek to reproduce this effort elsewhere on the Reservation. The Brownfields Program will be substantially involved in the soils cleanup at the former airport, as well as during the citing of utilities, roads and vertical construction. Green infrastructure options and design, along with drinking water and waste water considerations will benefit from the Water Program's involvement. The potential for renewable energy, as well as identifying the best options for achieving maximum energy efficiency will benefit from the RePowering Initiative and EPA's partnership with DOE's National Renewable Energy Laboratory. The Enforcement Program will evaluate the potential for compliance monitoring and enforcement activities in the area. Finally, EPA can help to ensure that the community is fully engaged and has an opportunity to have their concerns heard, as well as contribute to the visioning process.

*Key Contacts:*